



Brian Ceccarelli

Entrapment – Virginia

ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
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The State of Virginia entraps drivers. Entrapment is illegal in the United States.¹ The Virginia Driver's Manual directly contradicts the ITE provisions and guidelines on how to respond to yellow lights. The Virginia Driver's Manual says you must stop and that you should not speed up to get through the intersection. But ITE, the institution that sets the engineering definition of a yellow light, says that sometimes you can stop while other times you must proceed to and through intersection at the speed limit. ITE says you cannot slow down under the speed limit if you decide to proceed. ITE even further instructs you that it may be necessary at times to beat the light. Therefore obeying the Virginia Driver's Manual forces you to break the law, to receive unjust penalties, and possibly to crash.

The Virginia Driver's Manual:²

Yellow light or arrow: A yellow light or arrow are cautions warning that the light is about to change. If you have not entered the intersection, stop. If you are already in the intersection, go through it. Do not speed up to beat the light.

Virginia uses ITE's yellow change formula to set yellow light durations.³ ITE says some drivers upon seeing a yellow light *must* continue at the speed limit and some *must* even accelerate to beat the light.⁴

At the termination of a green phase, motorists approaching a signalized intersection are advised by a yellow signal indication that the red interval is about to commence.³⁵ The speed and location of some approaching vehicles will be such that they can stop safely at the stop line; others will have to continue at their speed or even accelerate into or through the intersection.

References

- ¹ Danny Glover, Jr., et. al, [*Entrapment in North Carolina*](#), (2012).
- ² Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, [*Virginia Driver's Manual*](#), **6** (2012).
- ³ Virginia Department of Transportation, [*Traffic Engineering Division Memorandum*](#), (2001).
- ⁴ Institute of Transportation Engineers, [*Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook, Second Edition*](#), Institute of Transportation Engineers, **759** (1982)